



A Wise Man Sleeps

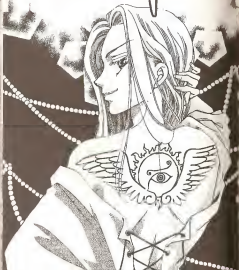


MICK TAKEUCHI



A Wise Man Sleeps

2



A Wise Man Sleeps

STORY AND ART BY
MICK TAKEUCHI

VOLUME 2



go!comi

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A Go! Comi manga

Published by Go! Media Entertainment, LLC

Shingo Mihara no Jewelry File - Kenji wa Nomaru
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Originally published in Japan in 2003 by Akita Publishing Co., Ltd., Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with Akita Publishing Co., Ltd.
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ISBN 978-1-933607-52-4

First printed in July 2008

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Manufactured in the United States of America

CONTENTS

Jewelry File 6 / Gimmel Ring (Part I).....5

Jewelry File 7 / Gimmel Ring (Part II).....37

Jewelry File 8 / Sapphire73

Jewelry File 9 / Opal..... 113

Jewelry File 10 / Emerald..... 153

CHARACTERS & STORY
INTRODUCTION

When Mihara's father disappeared, he left behind a huge debt, and a "music man's stone"—a jewel which has the power to expose the feelings trapped within other gems. When Mihara joins this mysterious power herself, she lands a part-time job at the jewelry shop owned by the enigmatic alchemist, Akechi. Now, her days are filled with mysteries and dangerous cases...



Jewelry File 6
**Gimmel Ring
(Part I)**



I... I DON'T BELIEVE IN HOROSCOPES, SO...

OH, ME? WELL, I'M—



HEY, RINTARO. WHAT DAY, MONTH, AND YEAR WERE YOU BORN?



Alchemy and astrology are closely related.

YOU'RE AN ALCHEMIST. DON'T GIVE ME THAT!



LIKE, WHERE WERE YOU BORN? HOW OLD ARE YOU?



I'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME...



WOULD YOU ALREADY BEING THINGS FROM ME?

YOU HAVE A SHADY PAST?

NO... IT'S NOT THAT...



TODAY'S HOROSCOPE FOR LIBRA SAYS...

OOOH, LUCKY ME!

YOU WILL FIND SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.



AS IF IF HE WERE THAT EASY TO FIND, I WOULDN'T BE HAVING ALL THIS TROUBLE!



MAYBE THAT MEANS I'LL FIND MY DAD!



SOMEBODY'S
IN LOVE



WHEN HE
CHANGED
FORM
AFTER
USING
THE WISE
MAN'S
STONE...

...HE SAID
THAT
WAS HIS
TRUE
FORM.



WHY DO
YOU
TRANSFORM?



YOU SAY
YOU'RE
IN
SEARCH
OF THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE,
BUT...

AND IT
BUGS ME,
BECAUSE

...THIS
STORE'S
SO
GOSH
DARN
EMPTY!

WHO...

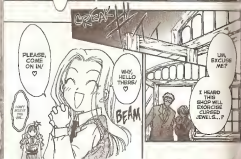
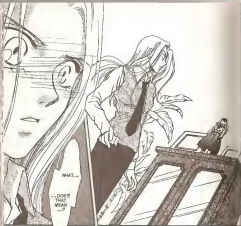
HANGING
AROUND
WITH
SOMEBODY
WHO DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE
A CLEAR
BACKGROUND
MAKES ME
SICK!!

WHO'D
FALL FOR
A GOON
LIKE
RINTARO-
SAN? YOU
IDIOT!!

GO OUT
THERE
AND
LOOK
FOR
IT!!



SO,
WHO'S
THE
RINTARO-
SAN I'M
LOOKING
AT?





DON'T
MIND US,
PLEASE,
CONTINUE.



UM...



SO...

IT'S
CURSED,
YOU
SAID?



I...IT'S
EXQUISITELY
MADE.

Isn't that a
nice piece of
stone?

AND
THE
STONE...

...IS A
TODAY'S
EYE...

CHILL

IS IT
AN
ANTI-
QUE?



OOOH,
WOH...

WE KNOW
THIS
RING WAS
MADE IN
EUROPE
IN THE
16TH
CENTURY.

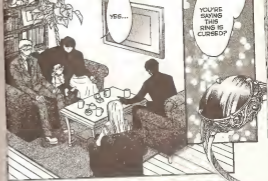
IT'S
VALUABLE
BECAUSE
NO ONE
ALIVE CAN
CRAFT
ANYTHING
LIKE IT.



YES...

MY
GRAND-
FATHER
FIRST
OBTAINED
THIS
RING.

SINCE
THEN, IT
SEEMS
ONLY THE
STONE
HAS BEEN
REPLACED.



YES...

YOU'RE
SAYING
THIS
RING IS
CURSED?



IS IT TOO
SCARED
IF I SAW
SOMETHING
WILD...

BE-
CAUSE...

WAIT!
WHY AM
I
LOOKING
FOR IT?

You're the
champion!



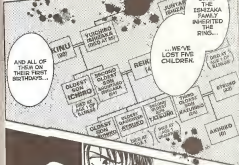
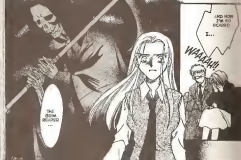
SHOOKE

But you
don't care
if I get
scared?



WELL?
FEEL
ANYTHING
MISERY-
SAP?

I DON'T
HESITATE
ANY
MORE.
I'VE
ALREADY
HEARD
FEELINGS
FROM IT...





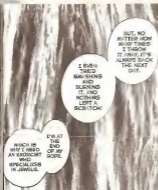
I...
I'M NOT
GOOFING
AROUND.

QUIT
GOOFING
AROUND
WHILE
I'M
TRYING
TO THINK!



SPRAIN

SPRAIN



WHICH IS
WHY I NEED
AN EXPERT
WHO
SPECIALIZES
IN JEWELS.

I'M AT
THE
END
OF MY
ROPE.

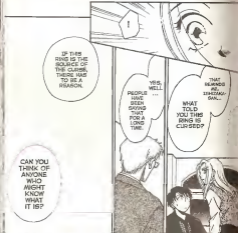
I EVEN
TRIED
SAVING
AND
BURNING
IT, AND
NOTHING
LEFT A
SCRATCH!

BUT, NO
MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES
I THROW
IT AWAY, IT'S
ALWAYS BACK
THE NEXT
DAY.



...THOUGH IT'S
UNFAIR TO MY
GRANDFATHER,
I DECIDED TO
GET RID OF IT.

SO...



IF THIS
RING IS THE
SOURCE OF
THE CURSE,
THERE HAD
TO BE A
REASON.

PEOPLE
HAVE
BEEN
SAVING
THAT
FOR A LONG
TIME.

YES, WELL...

WHAT
TOLD
YOU THIS
RING IS
CURSED?

THAT
REARMS
RE:
SHIZUKA-
SAN...

CAN YOU
THINK OF
ANYONE
WHO
MIGHT
KNOW
WHAT
IT IS?



WITHOUT
KNOWING
THE CURSE'S
ORIGIN,
SAYING
IT MIGHT BE
DANGEROUS.

I DON'T
SENSE
ANYTHING
BAD, BUT...

...I DON'T
KNOW HOW
ACCURATE
I AM.



WE'LL
BE ONE
YEAR
OLD IN
THREE
DAYS.

AND
HOW
OLD IS
AKIZAKI
NOW?

I
SEE.



SO, WE
ONLY HAVE
THREE
DAYS TO
FIGURE
THIS OUT.

THREE
DAYS...



...THEY
THEN
BELIEVE IN
CURSES
AND
WHATNOT...

...MIGHT
WEN
YOU A
PRETTY
PENNY,
BUT I
WON'T
BE PART
OF IT.

WHAT
...?!



IT
BELONGED
TO YOUR
LATE
HUSBAND.

D BUT...



BUT, MY
GRAND-
MOTHER
MIGHT
KNOW
SOME-
THING...



MY
GRAND-
FATHER
HAS
PASSED
AWAY.



!



I
DON'T
...



YOUR
OWN
LITTLE
GRAND-
BABY
IS IN
DANGER,
AND YOU...!



THAT'S
RIGHT!

...YOUR
GRAND-
SON
/AMERCO-
KUM'S
LIFE IS IN
DANGER.

WE
WON'T
TRY TO
CONVINCE
YOU OUT...



HMPH.

I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
ANY THING.

SHE
ADOPTED...

...MY
GRAND-
FATHER'S
NEPHEW.

BUT, IT'S
WRITTEN
RIGHT
ON YOUR
FAMILY
TREE...

...COULDN'T
HAVE
CHILDREN.

NO
GRAND
MOTHER...

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE SAID
THAT.

I
SEE...

HUH?

JUST
NOW...
I HAD
ASKED
YOU
CRYING...

WHAT
IS IT?

HUH?

THAT'S
AKIKO-
KUN.

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
CHILDREN.





AM, I MADE AN ANNOUNCE...



FLAP FLAP

HUH?

THEN, WHAT'S WITH HER ATTITUDE?

EMPHASIS



HUH/?

...YOU REALLY HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, MIKURU-SAN.

SOME-TIMES...



A PHOTO.

WHAT IS IT?



WHO COULD THAT BE?

TAKASHI ...?

1947 CHIO TAKASHI



USUALLY, THIS TYPE OF RING...

...IS USED AS AN ENGAGEMENT RING.

DIAMONDS AND RUBIES...
WHEN YOU LIO TWO JEWELS TOGETHER, THEY BECOME EVER-LASTING LOVE.



YOU MEAN THE LATE ISHIZAKA SENIOR...

...GAVE THIS RING TO THAT OLD GRANNY ...?

PROBABLY, YES.

ENGAGEMENT?

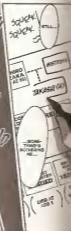


ET-SUKO?
I?

IT'S COMING FROM
THE MID-ROCKWAY



MISUZU-SAN?



SQUEAK!
SQUEAK!

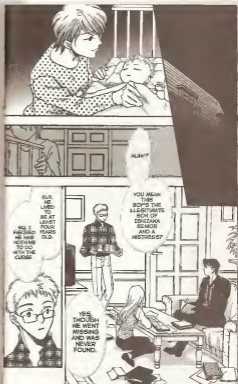
STILL...

HARD LAKA AT 500

TAKASAKI (10)

SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT HERE...

DIED AT 1000 1



HUH??

YOU MEAN THIS BOY'S THE ELDEST SON OF ISHIZAKA SENIOR AND A MISTRESS?

BUT HE LIVED TO BE AT LEAST FOUR YEARS OLD.

NO, I FIGURED HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CURSE

YES, THOUGH HE WENT MISSING AND WAS NEVER FOUND.







THE GRIM REAPER'S USUALLY DEPICTED LIKE THAT...



WAKE UP
NOW!
IF

THE GRIM REAPER'S A SKELETON



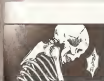
I GET IT, NOW...

A CHAIN OF BABIES THAT DIS...

AND THE SKELETON THAT GUIDES THEM TO THE UNDERWORLD...

THERE'S NO ART-TAKING IS.

THIS IS A GIMMEL RING.



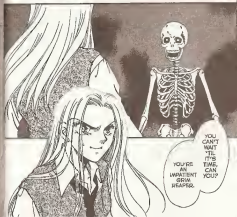
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?

PHEW. THAT WAS CLOSE...



R-RIGHT!

GET OUT WHILE YOU STILL CAN!



YOU CAN'T WAIT 'TIL IT'S TIME, CAN YOU?
YOU'RE AN IMPATIENT GRIM REAPER.



...I CAN'T
REPEL
THIS
GROW
READER
WITH MY
POWER.

EVEN
IF I
RECOGNIZE
HIM...

PEEL



DON'T
TAKE
IT THE
WRONG
WAY!!

IN AN
EMERGENCY
SITUATION
YOU ARE
SO...



ZP

WHAT'S
THAT?



GUMIEL
...?



...DO
YOU
MEAN
BY
THAT?

WHAT...



IN FACT,
THERE'S
A RISK
THAT
IT WILL
ONLY
GET
WORSE.

EVEN
IF WE
DESTROY
THE
TIGER'S
EYE...
...THE
GUNDS
WON'T
GO
AWAY.



EEK!



NO.



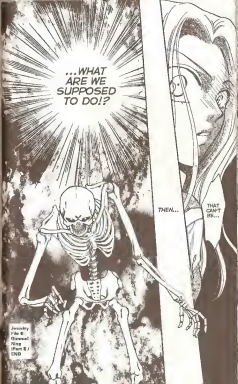
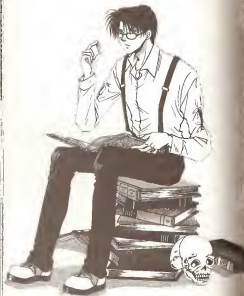
WE CAN
TALK
ABOUT
IT
LATER!

FIRST, WE
HAVE TO
BREAK
THAT
TIGER'S
EYE WITH
THE HELL
MAN'S
STONE.

AND
FAST!!

Jewelry File 7

Gimmel Ring (Part II)

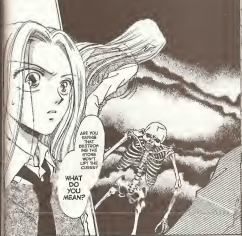


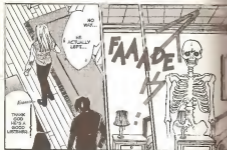
...WHAT
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO!?

THEN...

THAT CAN'T
BE...

Jewelry
File 6
Gimmel
Ring
(Part II)
END





LOTS OF GEMMEL
RINGS HAVE
SMALL
INSCRIBED
COMFORT-
MENTS IN THEM.
TO HOLD
THINGS LIKE
MESSAGE
OR LITTLE
ENCRUPTINGS.

!?

BABY
!?

THE
MOST
FASCINATING
MOTIF IS...
...THE
"SKELETON
AND BABY".

A
SKELETON
!?

THEY
REPRESENT
THE
ENDLESS
CYCLE OF
REPEATED
REBIRTH.

YES...
THE TWO
CURVED
WRISTBAND
FOR LOVE AND
DEATH.

THE
BABY'S
GONE!

OH!

THE
"SKELETON
AND BABY"...

THE
RING...

IT'S
REALLY
TWO
RINGS!

AH, I
KNEW
IT.
LOOK.

THIS IS
WHAT
THEY
CALL A
GEMMEL
RING.

"GEMMEL"
MEANS
"TWIN".

IT'S
VERY
INTRICATELY
MADE.
NOBODY
WOULD
BE ABLE
TO TELL
AT FIRST
GLANCE.

IT
LOOKS
LIKE
ONE
RING.
BUT IT'S
REALLY
TWO RINGS
JOINED
TOGETHER.

ONE
WITH EVEN
MORE
FACTS



THERE'S NO ONE ALIVE WHO KNOWS HOW.

ISHIKAWA-SAN SAID IT HIMSELF, REMEMBER?



THEN WE'LL HAVE A REPLACEMENT DONE, PRONTO.

WELL, ABOUT THAT...



...IT'S GOING TO TAKE BACK A REAL BODY TO REPLACE IT?

YOU MEAN THAT SINCE THE BODY'S MISSING, WE SHOULD BE DONE...

BUT...

THAT'S RIGHT.



THAT MUST BE WHAT THE SKELETON'S LOOKING FOR.



...TO ASK FOR IT TO BE DONE IN TWO DAYS IS A BIT MUCH.

IF WE SEARCH THE WORLD, WE MIGHT FIND ONE, BUT...

SO, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN **INKLING** OF A SOLUTION, BUT YOU PROMISED IT, DIDN'T YOU?



YOU IDIOT!

WHY'D YOU PROMISE IT!?

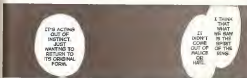
GRIND GRIND GRIND

FINE, I GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE!

I...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO...

AND IF WE CAN'T GET IT TO THE SPIRIT BY THEN?

IT WOULD GET PRETTY UGLY, I GUESS...



IT'S ACTING OUT OF INSTINCT. JUST WAITING TO RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

I DIDN'T COME OUT OF PALACE OR HELL...

I THINK THAT THAT WAY IS THE SPIRIT OF THE KING.



UNTIL THE BODY IS RETURNED TO IT...

...IT WILL KEEP TAKING CHILDREN TRYING TO GET ITS MISSING HALF BACK.

SO, THE KING LOVES ITS SEARCH FOR DESTINY.

WITHOUT THE TWO MOTIFS OF "LIFE" AND "DEATH" TOGETHER...

...THE PROMISE OF LOVE WON'T COME TRUE.



...OR
SO I
SAID.

DAMN
THIS
ART
FORM!!

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!!



WE'LL MAKE
A BABY
OURSELVES!

WHA
!?!?

W...WE
BARELY
KNOW
EACH
OTHER...

FLAIL

FLAIL

W...
W-W-WE
CAN'T!!



What about
the mother?

HAVE
A NICE
TRIP...

IF I HAD
A TRIP...



OKAY,
I'LL GO
ASK A
METAL
CARVER
I KNOW



I'VE TOO
MUCH
TO
DO
WITH
A
MAY
TRIP...

WHAT!?



Oh, the
mother
make a trip



WE'VE
GOT
NOTHING
LEFT TO
LOSE!

WE HAVE
TO DO
WHATEVER
WE CAN!

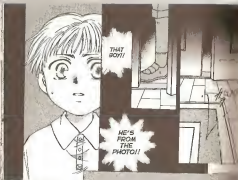


I MEANT WE'D
MAKE A BABY
ENGRAVING
OURSELVES!!

AAA
AAA
AH!

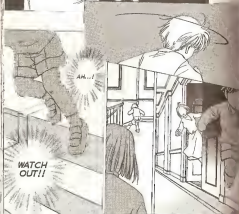
GRIND

GRIND



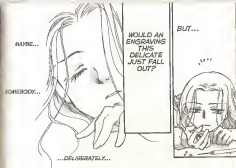
THAT
GUY!!

HE'S
FROM
THE
PHOTO!!



AH...!

WATCH
OUT!!



HAVE...

SOMEBODY...

...DELIBERATELY...

WOULD AN
ENGRAVING
THIS
DELICATE
JUST FALL
OUT?

BUT...



CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

THE
STATUETTE
IN THE
ANGEL

POP

CLANG

CLANG



DO YOU
HAVE ANY
PROOF
THAT I
DID IT?

SO...?

AH!

A DREAM'S
NOT
ENOUGH
TO CHARGE
SOMEBODY
WITH A
CRIME.

I'LL RUN
YOU FOR
BLANDISH!

OTHERWISE,
AKHIKIO-
KUN WILL
BE KILLED,
TOO!

WE JUST
WANT TO
RETURN
THE SCARVED-
OUT
ENGINEERS
TO ITS
HOME...

PLEASE.
WE'RE
NOT
GOING
TO CALL
THE POLICE.

IT
MIGHT
NOT
HAVE
BEEN A
SIMPLE
DREAM.

NO...

...DREW
OUT
THAT
POWER.

THAT
MEANS
...!

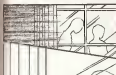
IT'S
POSSIBLE
THAT
THE TWO
AMATE
STONE
PIECES
OF YOL
AMARU-
SAN...

...WE
CALLED
"THE
THIRD
EYE."

"EYE
STONES"
LIKE THE
TWOAM'S
EYE IN
THIS
STONE.
ON CAT'S
EYE...

IT'S SAID
THAT
THOSE
WHO
HOLD IT
TO THEIR
BODY CAN
SEE THE
TRUTH OF
THINGS.

TO
SEE...
...AND
THE
TRUTH...





SPLINTER



I KNOW
IT'S
USELESS,
BUT...
...I
CAN'T
JUST
SIT
BACK
AND
WATCH
THIS!!

お
LOOM お



That was
no good.

OH, SHOOT



CHOK

!?



IT'S
THE
GRIM
REAPER



THE
THING
ABOUT
ME...

...BE
I'M
ACROSS
OF A
BLOOD
KINDA
GUY.

RENTARO-
SEN, WHEN
YOU'RE NOT
TRANS-
FORMED,
YOU REALLY
ARE
USELESS.



SOME-
BODY,
DO
SOME-
THING!



S...
SAY
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
LIKE...



RATTLE
RATTLE

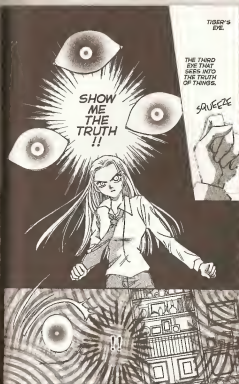
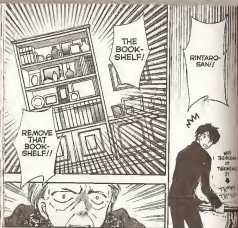


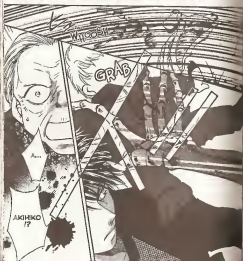
IS THERE...



I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO OWN SOME MICROSCOPE ANYMORE...











THAT'S
WHY YOU
CAN'T
LOOK AT
AKIHIKO-
KUN!



YOU'RE
STILL
GOING
TO RUN
AWAY?!

TURN



IT'S
TAKASHI-
KUN.



ARE YOU
STILL GOING
TO PRETEND
YOU DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING?



...AND
PUT YOUR
OWN LIFE
FIRST FOR
DECADES,
DIDN'T
YOU?!

YOU
HID THE
TRUTH,
THIS
WHOLE
TIME...

AND
THEY
LOOK...
LIKE
THEY
BELONG
TO A
CHILD!!

WHAU-
SAN/
THERE'RE
BONES
HERE!



IF ONLY...

IF ONLY I'D GIVEN BIRTH TO A CHILD...

...THAT WOMAN COULD NOT HAVE STOLEN MY HUSBAND.



Rock



BUT THAT LITTLE CHILD FOUND IT.



...IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, ISN'T IT?

THIS...



SEMI-MOTHER IS HERE...



...AND WALKED AROUND ACTING LIKE MY HUSBAND'S SON. HE'S THE WORST THING I'VE EVER SEEN.

SHE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT I COULDN'T BURN CHILDREN...

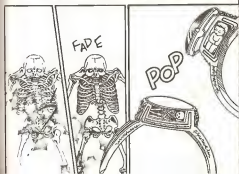
SO, I HAD THAT LITTLE EMBROIDERED MACE IN THE HAND MY HUSBAND GAVE ME.

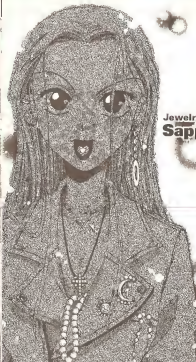


I ONLY WANTED...
...TO FORGET THAT WOMAN.



I NEVER MEANT...
...TO KILL TAKASHI.





Jewelry File 8
Sapphire



LARRY



TWO MONTHS AGO... OUR COMPANY'S PRESIDENT, KENZO KASAHARA, SUDDENLY DIED WHILE ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO FRANCE.

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT...

SINCE THEN, ITS DISPLAY CASE CANNOT BE OPENED.

...YOU'RE SAYING THIS SAPPHIRE'S CURSED?



THE CASE IS?

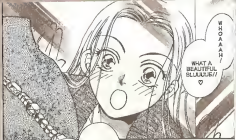


EVEN UNLOCKED, A HORDE OF MEN CAN'T BUDGE IT.

NOT AN INCH!

AND NEARLY...

...THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT ACCIDENTS.



WHOOAH!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SAPPHIRE!!



IT'S THE TOP JEWEL IN OUR KASAHARA COLLECTION.

IT'S A 10.82 CARAT SAPPHIRE NECKLACE.



AND...



YES.

IT WAS PURCHASED BY OUR COMPANY'S PRESIDENT FOR A BIRTHDAY GIFT TO HIS WIFE.

IT'S BEEN PRICED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION.

NOTHING LIKE FROM THE WORLD'S FAMOUS KASAHARA FIRM.

THIS CORAL-OVER BLUE SAPPHIRE IS A RARE ONE. IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PRODUCE!



HE'S SAYING
HE'LL CURSE
YOU.

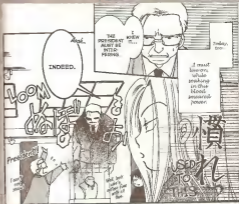


WIDOW
FLUNKO?!



IN OTHER
WORDS...

...IF WE
OPEN IT, SOMETHING
SCARY WILL HAPPEN...
RIGHT?



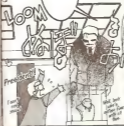
INDEED.

THE
PRESIDENT
MAY BE
INTER-
FERING.

I
KNOW
THAT...

I must
be on my
guard
in this
hood
moment
power.

Today,
too...



President!

Early
and
much.

What
best
with
the
President
of
the
United
States.

憤
れ
USE
THIS



"DON'T
OPEN
IT."

I
THINK?



LIVAAAAH!

THERE
MAY BE
SOME
UNDER-
STANDING
SACRIFICING
ATTACHED
TO IT.

CAN'T YOU
PLEASE
EXPLAIN
HOW
DON'T
FROM IT?

I... I'll
use
it to
the...!



WE'RE
SAYING
SOMETHING...

LET'S
SEE...



WHAT WAS HER PROBLEM?

WH...

NOW SEND THOSE SPIRIT MEDIUMS PACKING!



SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A WOMAN WHO'S JUST LOST HER HUSBAND.



B...BUT, MISS...

WE'LL LET HIM KNOW, OR IF GATE, HE'S SATISFIED.

WE CAN JUST KEEP IT ON DISPLAY IN THE CAFE, THOUGH.

TURN



GLARE

I...I'M SORRY!

NOTES NOT SPOOKY MEDIUMS

WHY ARE YOU CALLING FOR A SPIRIT MEDIUM WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?



HE HAS A CONCEITED PIOUS MIND.

AND HE HAS ANFULLY BITTERFUL FOR A COMED.

THAT QUESTION...



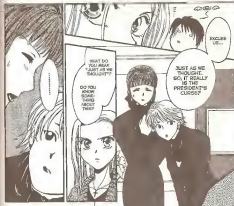
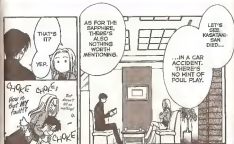
HE GIVEN SOME AND YES WE...

...INVITATIONS TO WEAR!

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE DRAGON IT WON'T OPEN...
BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT ANYBODY ELSE TO HAVE THE SAPPHIRE

BUT, HE WAS ESPECIALLY FOND OF THAT SAPPHIRE.

OH, WELL.
LET'S FORGET THAT TACKY WOMAN AND GET DOWN TO FACTS!



AH! FREEZE



AND GLASS IS ORIGINALLY MINERAL, RIGHT?

YEAH.

HEY... THAT GUY SAID THE CASE WAS FORTIFIED GLASS, RIGHT?

"DO NOT EVER LET HER HAVE THIS SAPPHIRE."

THAT'S WHY EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT HE MUST BE SAYING:

SURE ENOUGH, SHE MIGHT BE HER BAD MOTHER. THE ADULTERY GUMMERS WERE NOT JUST ONE OR TWO.

QUIET!

GLASS IS A MINERAL THING, SO...

MUSEUMS ARE CREATED BY MUSEUMS, AND...

NO!

BUT IF IT'S A "STONE" WE CAN DO SOMETHING, RIGHT?

MY LITTLE ALCHEMIST.

GRAB

HAH... I CAN IMAGINE HIS DOING IT...

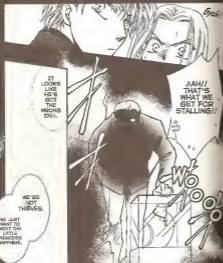
YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED?

HAH... HA... IF ONLY I COULD TOUCH THE SAPPHIRE, I COULD GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT... BUT THIS DAMN DISPLAY CASE...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I ASK HIM... "ALL HE SAYS IS "DON'T OPEN IT" AND "I'M SCARED."

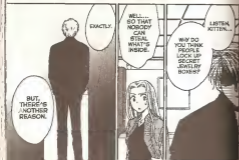
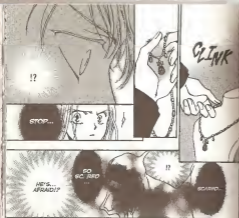
BUT I DIDN'T COME FROM THE MUSEUM THAT SHE EVEN WANTS THE SAPPHIRE.





There was a one year break
between publications.

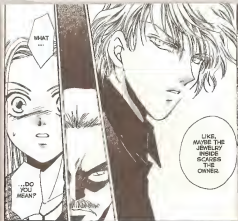






WOULD
YOU
CALL THE
APPLIANCE
STORE
FOR ME?

WHAT?!





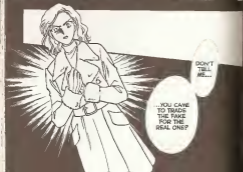
WHAT
YOU'RE HOLDING...
WELL,
I'LL
NEVER!



HUH?

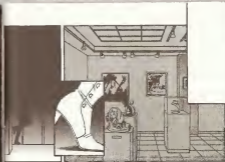
IT'S
YOU...

HIDE



DON'T
TELL
ME...

...YOU CAME
TO TRADE
THE FAKE
FOR THE
REAL ONE?



POP



YOU
ALREADY
HAVE
VISION
LIKE AN
INTEGRATED
CAMERA,
HUH
WOOF?

COMING
IN HERE
WITHOUT
TURNING
ON THE
LIGHT...

EEK!

FLASH



THE...
THE BLUE
SAPPHIRE...

IF IT'S A
GENUINE
NATURAL
SAPPHIRE,
IT
SHOULDN'T
HAVE ANY
REACTION,
BUT...

IT'S AN
ARTIFICIAL
SAPPHIRE.

CLINK
OF COURSE,
THE
SAPPHIRE
IS NO
EXCEPTION.

...IS
SHINING
RED!?

!?

WH...
WHY'D
YOU DO
THAT?!

THEY USE
THESE
LIGHTS AT
BARS AND
NIGHTCLUBS.

WE HAD
THEM
INSTALLED
EARLIER.

...EWTS
MORE
ULTRA-
VIOLET
RAYS.

THEY LIGHT
THINGS UP
IN A UNIQUE
WAY, LIKE
MAKING
WHITE
SHIRTS GLOW.

BLACK
LIGHT...

DIFFERENT
JEWELS
RADIATE
DIFFERENTLY
UNDER
BLACK
LIGHTS.

YOU CAN
USE THIS
REACTION TO
TELL
ONE JEWEL
FROM
ANOTHER.

THE
HOWEVERS
FROM EACH
ANOTHER.

THEY
DON'T
REACT
TO
ANY
MORE OF
IT, TOO.

IT'S
CALLED A
FLUORESCENT
REACTION.

DID YOU
KNOW THEY
CAN ALSO
BE USED TO
DISCERN
JEWELS
FROM EACH
OTHER?

SO, I
SWITCHED
THEM!

AND
WANTED
HIM TO
SUFFER
THE
SAME
WAY I
HAD.

I
HATED
IT...

I
DIDN'T
...

...WANT
THE
SAPPHIRE.

TMP...

SUFFER
THE
SAME
WAY YOU
HAD?

THAT'S
RIGHT...

CLIK

CLIK

WE
WERE AN
IMITATION
HUSBAND
AND WIFE.

AND THE
"IMITATION"
YOU BROUGHT
IN HERE ISN'T
FLUORESCING
AT ALL.

THIS
LOOKS
JUST
LIKE A
COLORED
SPINEL.

WHAT A
POWERFUL
RED.





...BECAUSE
I'M A
FAKE
WIFE!

MY
ONLY
VALUE
WAS...

...WEARING
FAKE
JEWELRY...

S
C
E
N
E



EVEN
WHEN I
TRIED TO
GET HIS
ATTENTION
BY
PLAYING
AROUND...
...HE
COMPLETELY
IGNORED
ME!

KARATAM
WAS ALL
ABOUT
WORK,
WORK,
WORK.
HE NEVER
PAID ANY
ATTENTION
TO ME.



HE
HAD
NO
FAITH
IN ME.

ALL HE
WANTED,
THOUGH,
WAS
SOMEONE
TO BOW
WITH HIM
TO THE
PARTIES...

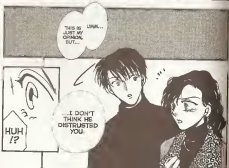
...AS A
TROPHY
WIFE!

FOR A
GOLD
COINER
ONLY
AFTER HE
FORTUNE...

...IT'S
WEIRD TO
HEAR HE
SAID THAT,
ISN'T IT?

BUT, I
LOVED
HIM!

HE NEVER
LET ME
WEAR HIS
PRECIOUS
REAL
JEWELRY. NEVER
EVEN LET
ME TOUCH
THEM!



THIS IS
JUST MY
CHINCH,
BUT...

...I DON'T
THINK HE
DISTRUSTED
YOU.

HUH?
!



I'M SURE...

...IT
SAVES THE
POWER TO
GUIDE
ITS LOST
SHEEP
HOME.

THE SAPPHIRE
IS THE
INTELLIGENCE
OF GOD AND
THEREBY
CALLED THE
GEM OF
TRUTH.

CLINK



WH...

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
I?

WE'LL
ASK HIM
DIRECTLY.

DIRECTLY...?
WHAT
NONSENSE
ARE YOU-



PRESIDENT
KASATANE
KNOWS HIS
JEWELS.

SO HE
MUST
KNOW
THIS,
TOO.

BECAUSE
OF THE
RISK OF
THEFT OR
DAMAGE.



ISSUES
INVOLVED
TO KEEP
THE REAL
ONE SAFE...

...IS AN
ACCEPTED
CUSTOM
IN THE WEST.



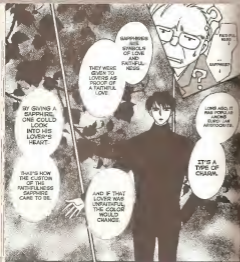
I DON'T
THINK
HE WAS
IGNORING
YOUR
FEELINGS.



...IT WAS
BECAUSE
HE CARED
FOR YOU
THAT HE
DIDN'T
WANT YOU
WEARING
IT.



IN
FACT...





BOTH
OF US.

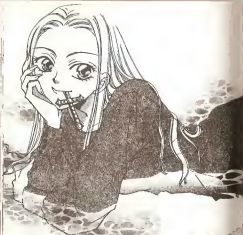
WE'LL
SO
FOOLISH

WE WERE
TOO
SCARED TO
KNOW EACH
OTHER'S
TRUE
FEELINGS.

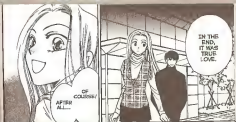
...AND
COULD
NOT RISK
SEEING
IT...

HE WAS
AFRAID THE
COLOR
OF THE
SAPPHIRE
WOULD
CHANGE...

BECAUSE
HE LOVED
FUMIKO-
SAN.



Jewelry File 9
Opal



OF COURSE!
 AFTER ALL...

IN THE
 END,
 IT WAS
 TRUE
 LOVE.



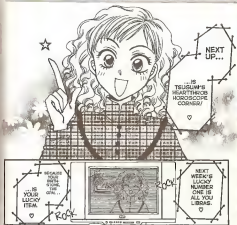
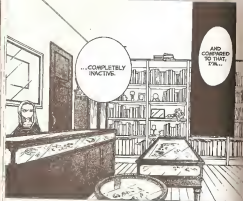
...THE
 SAPPHIRE
 THAT WAS
 STOLEN...

...DIDN'T
 FADE
 ONE
 SINGLE
 BIT!



I THINK
 YOU'RE
 BESTING
 LOVE FOR
 MONEY.

AHH, I
 WANT TO
 HAVE LOVE,
 TOO!!!





AND...
WHERE
IS IT
NOW?!

HUH?

MY
HOUSE.

SO, IT'S
BEEN
REMOVED
FROM
STORAGE.

EVER SINCE
MY GREAT-
GRAND-
MOTHER
DIED, IT'S
JUST BEEN
SITTING
THERE.

NNA...

WH-
WH-
WHAAA...

GULP

...THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE!

TH...
THIS
IS...



BUT,
YOU'RE
ON MY
TELE-
VISION...

OH,
THAT
WAS
DUPED?

TOURISM
IT?

HI,
THERE!



I TOLD
YOU
ABOUT
THAT?

YOU
MEAN
THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE.

RIGHT!
THE WISE
MAN'S
STONE!

LISTEN,
MIAHRI-
CHAN.

AREN'T YOU
LOOKING
FOR THIS
SOME-THING-
OR-OTHER
STONE?



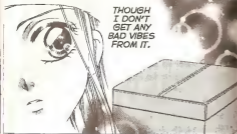
WHA
!?



I COULDN'T
STOP
THINKING
ABOUT IT.
PERHAPS LIKE
I'D HEARD OF
IT BEFORE.

AND LO AND
BEHOLD,
MY GREAT-
GRANDMOTHER
HAD ONE
IN HER
COLLECTION.





THOUGH
I DON'T
GET ANY
BAD VIBES
FROM IT.



HUH?

HE
SPECIALIZES
IN STONES
THAT ARE
POSSESSED
BY SPIRITS.

SO...



I KNOW
MRS. JOE
TODAY
MUST'VE
BEEN TO
TSUGUMI'S
HOUSE!!

HE MUST
MEAN
RINTARO-
SAN...

RATTLE

SORRY
FOR
WAKING
YOU WAT.

...RINTARO
FROM WORK...

...INTRO-
DUCED
ME TO A
MAYBE
SOMEONE...



MY DAD
SAID THE
REASON
HIS
BUSINESS
HASN'T
BEEN
DOING
WELL...

...IS
BECAUSE
OF THE
OPALS?

THAT'S
RIGHT?

YOU'RE
GOING TO
EXCISE
THE
OPALS?

HUH?



SINCE
LONG
AGO, THE
OPAL...

...HAS
BEEN
DEVELOPED
AS A SIGN
THAT
BRINGS
MISFORTUNE.

WHO
WOULDN'T
BE NERVOUS
AFTER
HEARING
THAT?

BUT,
TSUGUMI...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHO
WAKED
YOU TO
THINK
THAT
WAY, BUT...
...YOU
REALLY
ARE
SUPER-
STITIOUS!



...THIS
JEWEL
SEEMS
TO HAVE
STRONG
POWERS.

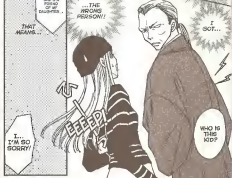
WELL, I
MUST
ADMIT...

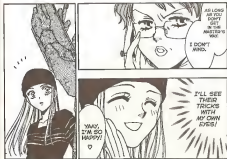
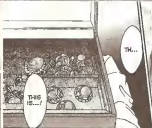


I'VE
HEARD
THAT,
ANYWAY.

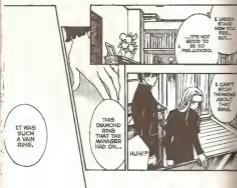
EXCEPT
FOR L. HE'S
WAS
BETTER
STONE
IS OPAL.
THEY DON'T
GO WITH
ANYBODY.

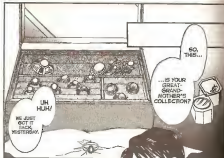
THAT'S
...











UH
HUH!

WE JUST
GOT IT
BACK
YESTERDAY.

SO,
THIS...

...IS YOUR
GREAT-
GRAND-
MOTHER'S
COLLECTION?

THESE
JEWELS ARE
WORTHLESS.

ARE
YOU
SURE?



I CAN'T
IMAGINE A
COLLECTOR
WANTS
THEM.

CLINK



WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
IT?

IT

JUST TO
BE SURE
WOULD
YOU...

...LET
ME SEE
THOSE
ONALS?



HOW
WOULD
A JEWEL
EXPERT...

OH,
SHE'S A
JEWEL
EXPERT.

...BUY A
RING THAT
LOOKS
LIKE IT WAS
ADVERTISED
ON A
MAGAZINE
COVER?

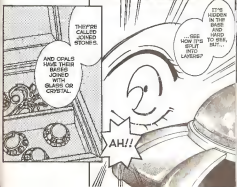
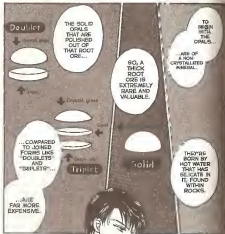
IT WAS A
SIX-PEDALS
RING LIKE
YOU'LL FIND
ANYWHERE,
BUT...

...TO MAKE
THIS
DIAMOND
LOOK
BIGGER
THAN IT
WAS...

...IT WOULD
PROVE
THAT IT
NEEDED.



WHEN-
SAY,
SOMETIMES
YOUR
INTUITION IS
DEAD ON.



TSUGUMI...

...WOULD BE
STOLEN LIKE
THIS, WOULD
NOT BE SO
EASY!

(WHEN
HE DIDN'T
GATHER
CASEFULLY
COLLECTED
PRECIOUS
JEWELRY...)

THEY
HEARD
ABOUT
THE ORALS...

...AND TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF YOUR
FATHER'S
FALLING
BUSINESS!

THAT WAS
THEIR
PLAN, ALL
ALONG!

THEY
TOOK
THEM
AWAY
TO
PURIFY
THEM...

...AND
THEY
SWITCHED
THEM WITH
ORALS GEAR!

IT'S
THEM!

WE'RE
GOING
TO GET
THOSE
ORALS
BACK!

I
KNOW
WHAT
TO
DO.

THAT'S
NO
NUMBERS
GUY!

YOU
MUST
HAVE
QUITE
A
PLAN.

OKAY!

FIRST,
TSUGUMI,
CAN YOU GET
ME THEIR
CONTACT
INFORMATION?

HEART
TAPOR

MMHMM-
CHAM...

YOU'RE
SO
COOL.

BUT...

EVEN
IF IT WAS
FOR-
GOTTEN...

F...
EASIER
Said
THAN
DONE.

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

THAT'S
SO
MEAN!!
GET
THEM
BACK!!

THIS IS
FROM MY
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
MOTHER'S
EVA.

HER
COLLECTION
WAS
FORGOTTEN
FOR A WHILE,
SO THERE'S
NO WAY WE'LL
FIND ANY
DOCUMENTS.

DON'T YOU
HAVE A
CONFIDENTIAL
OR SHAR-
DATORY?

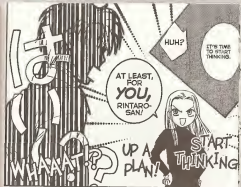


WE'VE GOT
A REAL
WISE MAN'S
STONE ON
OUR SIDE.



SO...

YOU
STOLE
THIS
CRAL
BLACK
THEN?



HUH?

IT'S TIME
TO START
THINKING.

AT LEAST,
FOR
YOU,
RINTARO-
SAN!

UP A
PLAN!

START
THINKING

SINCE
WHEN
DO I
CALL
MYSELF
THAT?

HOW CAN
YOU CALL
YOURSELF
AN
ALCHEMIST
OR
JUSTICE?

YOU'RE
GOING TO
LET THAT
CORRUPT
CONFESSION
GET AWAY
WITH THIS?

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

Y...YOU
CAN'T
JUST
SAY
THAT!



YES...



DO
SOME-
THING
...?



YOU'VE
GOT A
REAL
WISE
MAN'S
STONE
WITH YOU,
DO...

DO
SOME-
THING
ABOUT
IT!



...AND OF COURSE, HE WON'T MENTION YOUR NAME.

ONCE HE PURIFY THIS ORN, WE'LL RETURN IT TO KUNIO-SAN...



I UNDERSTAND.



THANK YOU SO MUCH!



STOP RIGHT THERE!

Proof of false crying

NICE JOB REELING THEM IN!

WILL THAT BE TAKING THIS?

REACH



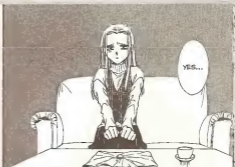
I MEAN, IT'S SO RESTFUL...

ANYONE FINDS OUT, I'LL GET ARRESTED!

BUT...

...I'VE BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT AND AM RATHER OUT OF SICK...

ALL THESE STRANGE THINGS STARTED TO HAPPEN...



YES...



TRASHING SO ROAD OF THEM...

I COULDN'T WEAR IT ANY MORE...



BUT, AFTER THAT...

...AM
THE
SPIRIT
OF THE
OPAL.





I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T WORK, MIHARU-SAN!!

とてつもない
あわれみの
表情

EXPRESSION OF EXTREME PITY

GRAB

US!?

HA!

STOLEN?

WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE SUCH AN ACCUSATION?

IF YOU DON'T GET OUT, WE'RE CALLING THE COPS!

FINE.

BUT FOR THOSE OF THEM...

...THAT GREAT POWER WORKS IN THE OPPOSITE WAY...

LIKE...

ANYHOW, YOU IDIOT!

HUH?

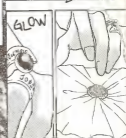
THE OPAL...

IF A STRONG AND RUTHLESS PERSON WANTS IT...

...HE ENDOES WITH THE POWER OF ALL STONES.

IT IS THE WISE MAN'S STONE.

SLIP



EKK!!

CLATTER

WHA?

L...

HOW RUDE.

TMP
TMP
TMP

I'M NOT
FOOLISH
BY ANYMEANS

YOU'D BE
LUCKY IF
IT WAS
ONLY A
SLIGHT
OF HAND...

THAT WAS A
PRAISEFUL
SLIGHT-
OF-HAND,
BUT...

EE...
EE!!

THE BROWN-
COLORED
BEEHIVES
THAT SHINE
OFF THE
OPAL...

...IS WHAT
MAKES
PEOPLE
LISTEN
THEN TO A
GODDESS' VEIL...

ARE YOU
READY TO
STAIN THAT
MYSTERIOUS
VEIL?

THE
WEIGHT
OF SUCH
A BARGE
STONE...

...IS
TOO
MUCH
FOR
YOU TWO

CLK

CLK

BEFORE YOU
ANGER THE
GODDESS...

...YOU
NEED TO
DELIVER
IT TO THE
RIGHTFUL
OWNER.

NO THOUGHT

NO THOUGHT'S
NO DOY...

IT'S
KILLING
ME...

WATER

EEK!

M...

MON-
STER

JUST
LIKE...

...THIS.

BY THE
CURSE OF
THE ORAL
WATER,
THAT IS
THE FOOD
OF LIFE IS
STOLEN...

...AND
THEY
SUFFER
IN THIRST
AND DEATH.

IT WAS
THIS SAME
INGREDIENT
AS THE RUMOR
WAS USED AS
THE DRYING
AGENT IN
FOODSTUFFS.

WHEN IT
DRIES UP,
THE COLOR
FADING AND
IT CRACKS.

SWELLERS
WHO
POSSESS
IT, SUFFER
THE SAME
FATE.

THEIR WATER
DRIES UP
AND IN
CONSEQUENCE,
IT IS RETURNED
TO THE OTHER.

ORALS
KEEP
WATER
IN THEIR
BODIES.

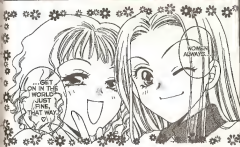
BEHOLD.

THE
PUNISHMENT'S
ALREADY
BEFALLEN
THIS GIRL.

PUNISH-
MENT?



Jewelry File 10
Emerald



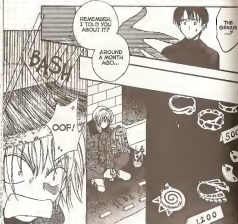


...LEFT THEM HERE YESTERDAY.

✕ THE SELF-PROCLAIMED FUTURE GREAT ARTIST... ✕

...YOU PUT THESE HERE, DIDN'T YOU MURASAME?

UPE... I DON'T THINK YOU'RE JUST MAKING THIS UP, SO...



REVENGER, I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT?

AROUND A MONTH AGO...

THE GRASS...



HAU?

WHAT?

A SPOTTED SEAL ON THE GRASSLANDS...?



ROKIT?

AND THIS ONE IS THE "LADY WHO HANDS THE WORK."



"THE SPOTTED SEAL ON THE GRASSLANDS AND THE FREE GODDESS."

WHAT IS THIS THING?

¥120,000-



AN UP-AND-COMING, RAVE REVIEW RECEIVING...

I'M MOTOI TAKATSUKI

...GENIUS ARTIST.

...IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THE WORK OF A GENIUS...
...IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THE AVERAGE PERSON.

THAT'S WHAT I MAKE.

THESE AREN'T ACCURATE COPIES.

THEY'RE ART.

ARTIST

Motoi Takatsuki



THAT'S SOME NERVE!!

WH... WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

HOW DARE YOU LIVE UP YOUR LITTLE ACCIDENTS RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR JEWELRY SHOP'S FRONT DOOR!

GIOIELLI

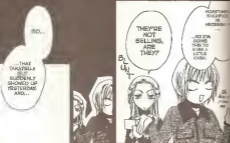
OH...



AHH...

I'M SORRY...

THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD BE ASKING!



NO...

...THAT TAKATSUKI SUDDENLY SHOWED UP YESTERDAY AND...

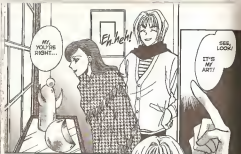
THEY'RE NOT SELLING, ARE THEY?

RENTING A SPACE IS NECESSARY...

...SO I'M GOING THIS TO SUB A LITTLE CASE.

BUT...

Oh, Motoi Takatsuki





IT'S SO LARGE
AND
BRIGHTLY
COLORED.

OH!
WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL
EMERALD!

MY NAME
HAS THE
CHARACTER
FOR "GREEN"
IN IT...

...SO,
THAT'S
PROBABLY
WHY I HAVE
SUCH AN
AFFINITY
FOR EMERALDS.

I
SEE.

BUT, I'M
AFRAID
TO DO IT
MYSELF...

THIS IS MY
FAVORITE.

IT NEEDS
TO BE
CLEANED.

WELL
!?

HUH?

THANKS

PLEASE
WAIT
HERE.

SHE
UNDERSTANDS
MY TALENT
AND IS
SUPPORTING
ME...

SHE'S
THE
BEST
WOMAN!

I
SEE...

MIYUKO
NASHINAWA-
SAN.

HER
HUSBAND
RUNS
TENS OF
GALLERIES.

THAT'S
HOW WE
MET.

MY F
TAKE
THIS
OPPOR-
TUNITY...
...TO HAVE
MY FING
CLEANED?

SLIP

YES,
PRETTY
MUCH.

THIS
PLACE...
IS A
JEWELRY
SHOP, RIGHT?

MY
FINGER

☆
THE
PERFECT
WOMAN
SENT TO
ME BY GOD
FOR THE
BIRTH OF
MY MASTER-
PIECE...

THAT'S
RIGHT!

THIS
WAS
FATE!

...IS
MIWAKO-
SAN!

EMERALDS
REFLECT
VICTORY
AND
SUCCESS.

AND THEY
EMBODIES
THE
GODDESS
OF BEAUTY.

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!!

SMART
AND
KIND...

WHEN
THEY SAY
FLAMELESS,
THEY MUST
MEAN YOU,
MIWAKO-
SAN.

ISN'T
SHE A
PRETTY
WOMAN?

SW
OO
N

NOTO-
KUN,
YOU
FLATTER
ME TOO
MUCH.

IT FEELS
LIKE MY
MATERIAL
MASTERPIECE
WILL COME TO FRUITION!

OVER
EMAS
ARREST
YOU
MIWAKO-
SAN...
MY
CREATIVE
URGE'S
ARE
OVER-
FLOWING!

THEY
EXHIBIT
GREAT
POWER
FOR
CREATIVE
WORK.

AND ARE
CALLED
POWER
STONES
FOR IT.

HOW
AMVEDO-
PRAISE...
...OF
YOU TO
CALL
HER A
VENUS.

SOMEBODY
STOP THIS
GUY...

YOU
MUST
BE MY
VENUS,
MIWAKO-
SAN!

I
KNOW!

WHEN I
MARRIED
YOU, DON'T
FORGET.

DON'T
YOU
THINK
YOUR
GETTING
A LITTLE
TOO INTO
THIS?



SHE'S A PIMP,
MORE LIKE IT.

PEPPER,
HE CALLS HER.



HOW I ENVY
THAT LIFE...

DAZED



THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING...

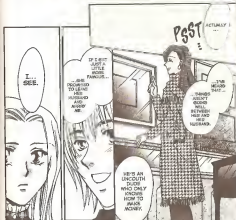
...AS A
PERFECT
HUMAN.



This is a
lawless
area, huh?

SOME
CONTRACT
MAD AS
ROCKETS...

...WON'T
HINDER
OUR LOVE!



I...
SEE.

IF I HAD
JUST A
LITTLE
MORE
FAMOUS...

...AND
DECEASED
TO LEAVE
HER
HUSBAND
AND
ABANDON
ME.

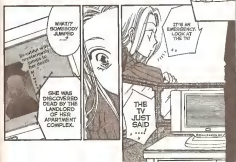
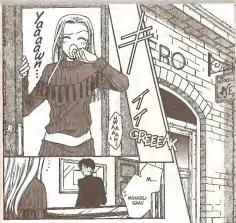
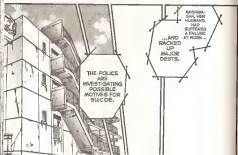
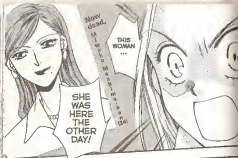
PSST

ACTUALLY

THE
MEANS
THAT...

THINGS
WOULDN'T
GOING
WELL
BETWEEN
HER AND
HER
HUSBAND.

HE'S AN
UNCOUTH
THUG
WHO ONLY
KNOWS
HOW TO
WALK
BACKWARD.





I'M SAYING...

...SHE
MIGHT'VE
BEEN
MURDERED.



HE'S
RIGHT.

KILLED
IT?
WHY?

LIFE
DANGEROUS
TO JUDGE
THAT BASED
ON A GUESS



THAT'S
TRUE.

BUT

WELL...
THEN...

PEOPLE
WHO
ARE SO
DESPERATE
THEY TAKE
THEIR OWN
LIFE...

...DON'T
GET THEIR
JEWELRY
CLEANED
ON A WHIM.
I DON'T
THINK.



I WAS
WORRIED...
BECAUSE
SHE
SEEMED
BLUSHING,
BUT...

...IF SHE WAS
SUFFERING
ENOUGH TO
TAKE HER
OWN LIFE, SHE
SHOULDN'T
TALKED TO ME
ABOUT IT...



TWO
DAYS
AGO...

...HE
LEFT
THE
SHOP
AND
WENT
TO
EAT...

...AND
THEN
SAID
GOODBYE
IN FRONT
OF MY
HOUSE.

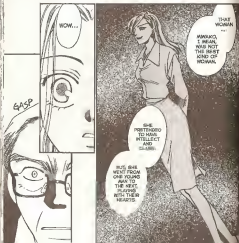


WHAT...

...DO
YOU
MEAN?

DO YOU
REALLY
THINK SHE
KILLED
HERSELF?





YOU THINK
HE WAS
APPROX
VED LIFE
INSURANCE?

THAT'D BE
PLENTY OF
ACTION
FOR HIM...

MYAKO-
SAN WAS
HEAVILY
INSURED.

THE
BENEFICIARY
IS HER
HUSBAND,
MASHU-
SAN.

!?

WHO?

WHAT'S
UP WITH
THIS?

NO WAY!
YOU'RE
SAYING
EVEN A
JEWEL LIKE
THIS CAN
CRACK?

AAAW,
IT GOT
CRACKED
IN THE
FALL.

TOO BAD.
IT WAS
SUCH A
PRETTY
JEWEL...

MASHU-
SAN'S
COMPANY
HASN'T
BEEN
DOING
WELL,
LATELY.

THE
POLICE
ARE
LOOKING
AT HIM
AS A
SUSPECT.

NOW
THEN...

TAKE
THIS
AWAY
WITH
YOU.

I...
I HAD
TOO
MUCH.

SHE WAS
WEARING
IT WHEN
SHE DIED,
BUT...

CLACK

...IT'S
WORTH
LESS
NOW.

WELL?

DID YOU
FIND OUT
ANYTHING?

YEAH.

MASHU-
SAN!

...IT'S
POPULAR
TO
REINFORCE
AND
IMPROVE
THEM.

...AND
TREATMENTS
BY FILLING
THAT PLUS
THEIR UP...

...COLORING
AND
COATINGS
THANKS TO
COLORING
OILS, AND
RESINS...

WITH
ENHANCEMENTS
THANKS TO
COLORLESS
OILS, AND
IMPRESSIONS
LIKE RESIN...

CONVISED
TO OTHER
STONES...

...EMERALDS
HAVE A
LOT OF
OCCLUSIONS
AND ARE
EASY TO
BREAK.

Treatments

Methods of improvement to
transform the appearance of
the stone's color, through
man-made methods using
chemistry and physics, despite
the stone's natural properties

Enhancements

Methods of improvement
that bring out the original
latent beauty of the stone,
through artificial means.

...IT'S STRANGE
THE OILS AND
THE OCCLUSIONS
WOULD
COME OUT.
SHE
WOULD
LEAD TO THE
DISCOLOR-
ATION WE SAW.

IT WAS STRANGE
HOW TREATED
AN EMERALD,
AND SHE WAS
CONSIDERING WE
NOT WASH
OR CLEANING
SOLUTION ON IT.

AND SHE
WOULDN'T
GET IN A
HOT TUB
WITH IT
ON...

I JUST WASH
WITH ALSO
CAREFUL
WITH HER
MAKE-UP AND
NAIL POLISH
REMOVER.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE
SHE'D
DO THAT WITH
HER RING
ON, OR
ANYTHING.

TRUE.

BUT, SHE
ASKED
OUR
JEWELRY
SHOP TO
CLEAN
HER
STONE...

...THAT
MEANS
SHE KNOWS
ALL ABOUT
EMERALDS.

YOU HAVE
TO TREAT
THEM VERY
CAREFULLY.

EMERALDS,
OPALS, AND
PEARLS ARE
ESPECIALLY
DELICATE.

...PLENTY
OF THEM
ARE
SURPRISINGLY
FRAGILE.

PEOPLE
THINK
THAT
JEWELS
ARE
REALLY
TOUGH,
BUT...

YES,
THEY
CAN.

THE
COLOR
IS?

AND THE
COLOR'S
ALL
FADED,
TOO...

I
SEE...

I DON'T
THINK...
A FALL
DID THIS.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

IT'S
WASHED
OUT...

WHAT?/







IT'S A
CHEMICAL
THAT, WHEN
APPLIED TO
THE SURFACE
OF SILVER
AND OTHER
METALS...

ALSO
CALLED
TARNISHING
SOLUTION.

...DEBILES
THINK AND
WAGGLE
THEIR
LOOK
OLDER



...IF IT EVER
SPILED,
THE STRONG
SMELL WOULDN'T
GO AWAY FOR
A WHILE.

THE MAIN
INGREDIENT
IS SULFUR,
SO...

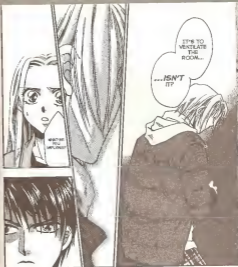


DON'T TELL
ME, THE
DISCOLORATION
OF THE
SILVERWARE
WAS FROM...



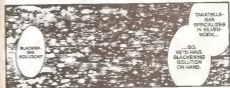
SULFUR...?
YOU MEAN
LIKE THE
KIND AT HOT
SPRINGS?

HOT...



IT'S TO
VENTILATE
THE
ROOM...

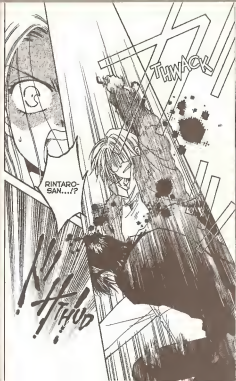
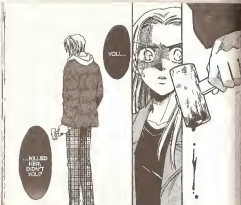
...ISN'T
IT?



BLACKEN-
ING
SOLUTION

TACKLE-
SAY
SPECIALISES
IN SILVER-
WORK...

...SO,
WE'D HAVE
BLACKENING
SOLUTION
ON HAND.





SHE WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
PERFECT.

I
THOUGHT
SHE
WAS MY
GODDESS,
ALL
ALONE.

SH...

SHUT
UP!!

SHE DIDN'T
FIT YOUR
IDEAL, SO
YOU KILLED
HER, IS
THAT IT?

BUT, SHE
WASN'T.



HOW
SPOILED
CAN
YOU
BE!?

NO-
BODY...

... WOULD
BUY THAT
AS A
MOTIVE!



MIYAKO-
SAN
BETRAYED
ME.



SHE
SAID
I WAS
TOO
BORING.

THAT I
DISGUSTED
HER.

FOR A STONE,
DAMAGE
AND
DODGE-
SCAMS...
...ARE
NOTED AS
NEGATIVE
POINTS
THAT
BRING
DOWN ITS
GRADE.

AT THE SAME
TIME, THEY
SERVE AS
OBVIOUS
PROOF TO TELL
THEM FROM
"100-PERFECT
FAULTS."

DON'T
YOU
KNOW?

TWIST!

WAAH!

IT'S
NATURAL
THAT YOUR
BEAUTIFUL
STONE,
YOUR VENUS,
SHOULD
HAVE HER
FAULTS.

THEY EVEN
SAY THAT
"IT'S HARDER
TO FIND A
FLAWLESS
EMERALD,
THAN A
FAULTLESS
HUMAN."

IF YOU
DON'T
HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES
TO ACCEPT
THOSE
FAULTS...

...THEN
YOU DON'T
DESERVE
TO HAVE
HER.

SPRAIN
#TWIST!
LET ME
SO! LET ME
GO—
KUH...



RINTARO-
SAN!
YOU'RE
OKAY!

MY
LITTLE
KITTEN'S
RIGHT,
BOY.



...WHO
HAD
OURSELVES
A LITTLE
CAGE OF
DESPAIR.
♡

IF I HADN'T
CHANGED
RIGHT
AWAY
THANKS
TO THE
WISE
MAN'S
STONE...



WH...
WHO
ARE
YOU?

WHERE'D
YOU—?



!?



JEWELS
THAT
ARE TOO
BEAUTIFUL...

...ARE
OFTEN
RAKES,
PROCESSED
TO HIDE
THEIR
PLANS.

HE
SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN
THAT.



DON'T YOU
THINK THAT
AN ARTIST
WHO CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
BEAUTY...

...DOESN'T
NEED
ARMS?

HE WHO
CANNOT
APPRECIATE
THE
EMERALD'S
BEAUTY...

...IS A
FOOL WHO
DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
BEAUTY,
AT ALL.

A ROMAN
EMPEROR
SAID THAT.

♡ Hello ♡

My most sincere thanks for picking up this super hot "A Wen Man Slaps" volume 2. Despite being an irregularly serialized series, I'm really grateful that there are still readers out there who were looking forward to its continuation. *brobbs!* *brobbs!* ♡

With the huge gaps from one volume to the next ♡, and the renewed the magazine underwent, there was a change in policy. So, compared to the mystery and slightly horror flavor of the first volume, the second volume became more like a mystery and something story. Compared with the others, though right? ♡ Afterward, as well, there was some that said error, so that I really felt deep down how margin is so much like a living thing. It was just an eye-opening experience. Oh, well, if it's indeed living then at least I can rejoice in the fact that it's maturing. So, heh, but I'd make me so happy if you could enjoy that for even just a little. ♡ Well, well we meet again somewhere!

~nick

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ASHLAND, OR 97101

THANK YOU !!



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SPECIAL THANKS
TO:
YUKAKO.T
AKIRA.K
RIU.A
TAKUMI.A
EMUK
ASUKA.D
TAKI.I
HITOYO.S
M.HOSHINO
MY FAMILY

A Wen Man Slaps 2 / 143